

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2009

Chairwoman Nita Lowey  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
HB-26, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
1016 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

We are writing in support of increased funding for U.S. programs to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation is the leading preventable cause of death in the developing world. The fact that nearly 1 billion people are without access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion people are without access to basic sanitation means, among other things, that millions of girls risk their safety and their education spending hours walking to gather water for their families and that \$380 billion of activity for economic growth are lost because half of the developing world is sick from a water-related disease.

Since the passage of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act (P.L.109-121), the Committee has generously provided significant increases in the funding available for safe drinking water and sanitation. We believe that similar increases continue to be appropriate given the magnitude of the problem. Specifically, we request the following:

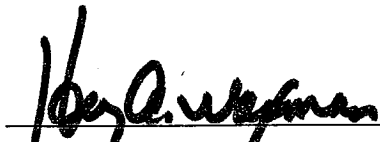
- \$500 million for long-term safe drinking water and sanitation supply projects, specifically to implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and pursuant to the requirements of and strategy required by that Act.

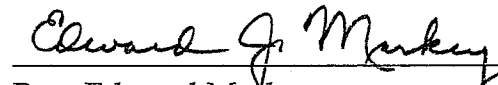
We appreciate your continued attention to this issue and to the plight of the billions around the world without access to safe drinking water and sanitation. We stand ready to work with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earl Blumenauer", written over a horizontal line.

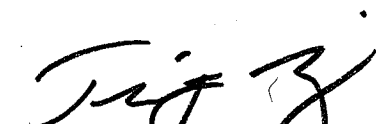
Rep. Earl Blumenauer


  
Rep. Henry Waxman

  
Rep. Edward Markey

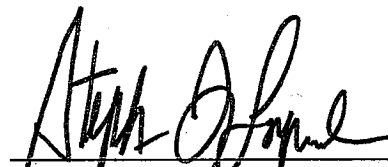
  
Rep. Albio Sires


  
Rep. Mazie Hirono

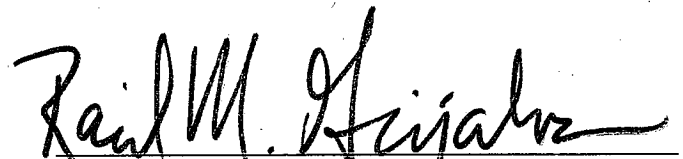
  
Rep. Timothy Bishop

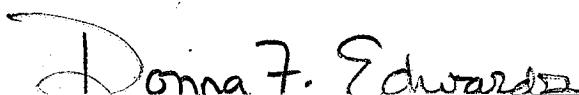
  
Rep. Norman Dicks

  
Rep. Jan Schakowsky

  
Rep. Stephen Lynch

  
Rep. Dennis Kucinich

  
Rep. Raul Grijalva

  
Rep. Donna Edwards

  
Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy

Gwen Moore

Rep. Gwen Moore

Alan Grayson

Rep. Alan Grayson

D. Reichert

Rep. David Reichert